Amendments to the Specification

To correct clerical errors, please amend the specification at page 57 lines 19 and 23 as follows:

The coding sequence corresponding to the secreted form of the *M. tuberculosis* RP-factor (~~g1655671~~GI: 1655671; acc. no. Z81368), starting at residue D_{50}, was inserted into pET19b to generate plasmid pRPF2 (*vide infra*). Extracts of IPTG-induced *E. coli* strain HSMI74(DE3) containing pRPF2 were challenged with a poly-His antibody. A strong signal was associated with a protein which was eluted from the affinity column by 0.5M imidazole. The histidine-tagged protein from HSMI74(DE3) caused a ~~sl;ght~~slight but significant enhancement of the growth of *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv, as shown in Fig. 10. It also stimulated the growth of *M. luteus* in LMM. The control culture attained a final OD_{600nm} of 1.0, whereas cultures containing the RP-factor (1:100,000 dilution) attained a final OD_{600nm} of between 2.0 and 6.0.